

MINUTES ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

Greenville, NC
January 9, 2006

The Greenville City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, third floor of the Municipal Building, with Mayor Robert D. Parrott presiding. The meeting was called to order, followed by the invocation by Mayor Robert D. Parrott and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following were present.

Mayor Robert D. Parrott
Mayor Pro-Tem Mildred A. Council
Council Member Ray Craft
Council Member Pat Dunn
Council Member Rose H. Glover
Council Member Chip Little
Council Member Larry Spell
Wayne Bowers, City Manager
Wanda T. Elks, City Clerk
David A. Holec, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Council Member Spell to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Council and seconded by Council Member Spell to approve all the items under the consent agenda as listed below. Motion carried unanimously.

- (1) Minutes from the November 10, November 21, and December 5, 2005 City Council meetings
- (2) Consideration of various tax refunds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Tony Ray Ore	Mobile home charged to incorrect taxpayer (2003 & 2004)	\$ 229.56
First Citizens Bank	Business personal property charged in error (2001-2005)	\$2,725.21
DCFS Trust	Prorate taxes on vehicle	\$ 144.66
- (3) Renewal of Airport Economic Stimulus Plan (Contract No. 1379A)
- (4) Resolution amending the City of Greenville Personnel Policies Section 12.0 (Affirmative Action Statement) (Resolution No. 06-01)
- (5) Resolution approving Amendment #3 to the City of Greenville Cafeteria Plan (Resolution No. 06-02)
- (6) Plan to address salary compression issues

CITY OF GREENVILLE AND PITT COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2007 FEDERAL AGENDA - APPROVED

Ms. Melissa Hyman with the Ferguson Group informed the City Council that she previously met with various City department heads regarding City services and programs provided to City residents. The purpose of the meetings was to determine the priority projects that the City of Greenville would pursue for federal funding. Similar meetings were held with the County for the same purposes. Based on the meetings, a list was compiled of the most viable projects for federal funding and those projects are included on the draft Federal Agenda. There are a total of seven projects--three county projects, three city projects and one joint City/County project. The City requested funding for the completion of the Tenth Street Connector, revitalization of West Greenville and Streetscape improvements along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The County requested funding to expand mental health services, foster the development of a Biotechnology Incubator and to serve more students participating in the health/sciences, automotive and technology and business academies. The City and the County will work together to pursue gang prevention funding. Ms. Hyman informed the Council that the County Commissioners had approved the draft agenda and once the City Council approves the agenda, a date will be set for representatives from the City and County to go to Washington, D.C. to present the federal agenda to the Congressional delegation. The time frame should be the end of February or beginning of March. Through the spring and summer, Congress will draft the various pieces of legislation that, hopefully, will include funding for these projects. The Ferguson Group will keep the Council abreast of the status of the bills and the City will be alerted when it is the appropriate time to call the Congressional delegation to advocate for the projects.

Mayor Pro-Tem Council asked if it would be too late to advocate for the projects during the National League of Cities Conference, and Ms. Hyman replied that it would be fine, but the idea is to have the Council go with the Pitt County officials.

Mayor Parrott stated that in the past City Council has tried to go to Washington, DC prior to the National League of Cities because it is so busy during the League Conference that it is difficult to get to the Congressmen at that time. Normally, Council Members go a week or two before the conference and there are not as many people and the Congressmen allow more time.

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Council Member Spell to approve the Federal 2007 Agenda. Motion carried unanimously. The Agenda approved includes:

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Appropriations Requests

PROJECT	REQUEST	BILL AND PROGRAM	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
24 Hour Mental Health Crisis Facility (Pitt County)	250,000	Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	Funding will be used to expand mental health services for a crisis center program/jail diversion initiative.
Biotechnology Incubator (Pitt County)	\$300,000	Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension	Funding will be used to enable research to solve problems critical to farmers, consumers and communities.

		Service, Research and Education Activities	
Gang Prevention Activities (City of Greenville/Pitt County)	\$250,000	Commerce, Justice, Science (Senate)/Science, State, Justice, and Commerce (House) Edward Byrne Discretionary Grant	Funding will be used to mitigate gang violence and to prevent youth from participating in gang activity.
Health Sciences, Automotive Technology, and Business Academies (Pitt County)	\$250,000	Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Fund for the Improvement of Education	Funding will be used to expand programmatic services to target new high school students and to improve existing services.
MLK, Jr. Boulevard Improvements (City of Greenville)	\$1 million	Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, and HUD Transportation and Community and Systems Preservation Program	Funding will be used for streetscape improvements along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Such improvements will contribute to the overall economic revitalization efforts underway in West Greenville.
Tenth Street Connector (City of Greenville)	\$5 million	Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, and HUD Surface Transportation Program	Funding will be used to complete planning, design and construction of the Tenth Street connector.
West Greenville Revitalization (City of Greenville)	\$200,000	Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, and HUD Economic Development Initiative	Funding will be used to remove blighted structures and to construct recreational amenities, which will revitalize West Greenville

Other Interests

- Work with the Economic Development Administration to secure funding for an industrial park in Pitt and Martin Counties, which will result in increased employment opportunities for the area.
- Secure Congressional support and funding for the City of Greenville's EPA Community-Wide Assessment Brownfields Grant application.
- Advocate for increases in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates.
- Monitor the status of telecommunications legislation.

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Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Council Member Spell to approve the City of Greenville and Pitt County, North Carolina Fiscal Year 2007 Federal Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION BY THE SOUTH COAST LEAGUE

Mr. Jamie Toole, Chief Executive Officer for the South Coast League of Professional Baseball, stated that the South Coast League is a brand new independent professional league that will begin playing May of 2007. A video on minor league baseball was shown. Mr. Toole informed the Council that sometimes there is a misconception that minor league baseball is all about the players on the field where in fact it is more about the community and the families having a good time at the ball park. The League's mission statement for the southeast is “Through our national pastime, the South Coast League of Professional Baseball will provide affordable family

entertainment to the citizens of the southeastern United States while serving as a loyal community partner to the communities that support South Coast League Franchises.”

Mr. Toole explained that the majority owner of the League is Ferro Investments of Joliet, Illinois. The minority owner, Steve Malliet, is the Executive Vice President and General Manager. Mr. Toole and Chris Allen also own a portion of the league. The ownership group has a combined 47 years of baseball experience at the minor league level through ownership and operating franchises. An overview was given of the shareholders. The South Coast League operates under a single entity model to protect against certain markets that may not be as viable as the other markets.

Mr. Chris Allen explained that the South Coast League would provide the opportunity to bring professional baseball to communities in the southeastern United States. There are many viable markets that cannot necessarily have professional baseball because of restrictions such as Zebulon, where the Carolina Mudcats play. The Mudcats originally wanted to play in Raleigh but had to move to Zebulon because the Durham Bulls had territorial rights. There are many wonderful markets throughout the southeastern United States that can house professional baseball, but they are not getting the opportunity because of territorial rights.

Mr. Toole stated that one of the questions that has come up several times is the quality of playing and where the players would come from. Mr. Toole explained that beginning in 2007, major league baseball would start to co-op and do away with some of their rookie level teams, meaning that two major league teams will only have one affiliate. Because of this there are going to be a number of quality baseball players in this region who would not normally be out there.

Mr. Nick Basso stated that Greenville is larger than 40% of the current minor league markets, and is projected to average approximately 1,551 fans per game. This is based on a fan ratio comparison study. The ratio numbers that have been established are a way of comparing apples and oranges. For example, the Durham team drew 5 million fans this past year versus the Kinston team that drew 112,000 fans. Kinston actually had a favorable draw compared to Durham in regards to fan attendance and the number of people living in the area. The FCC adopted a Basic Trade Area, which is a population number that recognizes the dependence of some of the smaller markets on larger ones for recreation, employment and trade. The number for the Greenville/Washington Basic Trade Area is about 248,000 people as of the 2000 Census.

Mr. Allen stated that the economic impact is also important, and their philosophy of minor league baseball is that it offers affordable family entertainment, community relationships, the South Coast Reading Program, Community Nights, mascot and player appearances, Kid's Club which sends kids 12 and under to baseball games at no cost, Boy Scout/Girl Scout Campouts at the ballpark, charity work, and speaking engagements from the players, staff and coaches. It is projected that a professional baseball team would bring an economic impact of \$2.3 million to Greenville in taxable revenue, affordable family entertainment, seasonal and annual jobs, opportunities for students to become more involved in the community. It would also enhance the identity of the City and increase the quality of life based on Money Magazine and Places Rated.

Mr. Allen stated that the League's financial commitment could include the League paying the entire lease package of \$75,000 at the signing of a lease. Everything would be paid in advance.

Also, an ongoing financial commitment for the coming seasons would be \$1 per ticket sold at the box office annually, and 10% of net revenue would be part of the package that the League would put in. It is projected on an annual basis that the League would be able to contribute about \$36,000 on top of the base lease agreement, and at no time less than \$10,000 at the box office and \$5,000 for concessions. This would amount to a guaranteed total payment to the City of \$120,000 over the first three years. If projections are reached, it would be more in line of \$183,000. with the first three-year base lease paid at the signing.

For the South Coast League to come to Greenville, a three-year lease will be required, for a minimum of 40 games (35 night games) at Guy Smith Stadium. The League will negotiate with East Carolina University or Pitt Community College to host ten South Coast League games each season. The League is willing to work the entire South Coast League schedule to accommodate the use of Guy Smith Stadium along with the high school, Legion, and Babe Ruth baseball programs. Based on all their research at each market, Greenville is probably one of the most impressive markets that does not have the opportunity of professional baseball or any professional sport at the moment. The League is willing to fund a renovation package necessary to bring Guy Smith Stadium up to minor league standards (projected \$340,000).

Mr. Basso informed the Council that the only problem the Parks and Recreation Commission and he saw was the schedule conflict. A lot of the other parks and communities they have looked at have no one using their facility to the level that Greenville does. The following options came from the meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission today: To light one of the high school stadiums, because the Guy Smith stadium is the only lit facility in the area; no other dollars from the city would be necessary at the current Guy Smith Stadium; the 2005 schedule would allow 85 possible dates for the ball club to play; the City would be required to maintain structural elements of the facility, basically the same as currently at the ball park; willingness to utilize other existing facilities to accommodate baseball as a partner of the South Coast League; and also the willingness of the City's Park and Recreation Department to work hand-in-hand with the South Coast League to promote professional baseball at all levels, from Babe Ruth up to professional baseball. If the City has interest in continuing conversations, the League would like to sign a lease agreement for the number of games requested at the facility, have operations in Greenville by March or April 2006 at the latest, begin selling corporate partnerships and season tickets, establish the Reading Program in the school system, establish the Kid's Club in the Community, establish relationships with Chambers of Commerce and become active with civic groups throughout the Community. Greenville would not be getting just a professional baseball team, but another community leader, another active business owner, or a business that is going to be involved with everything that takes place in the community and have a win-win situation for both parties. A copy of the presentation by the South Coast League had been presented to Council (Document No. 06-1).

Questions asked by the Council Members and responses given were as follows:

The initial model showed eight teams. What is your expansion vision and how do you see the League growing?

(RESPONSE: Based on the Northern League growth rate, which is the preminent current independent league in professional baseball, we see the first decade bringing in approximately

four more franchises into the South Coast League, somewhere in the neighborhood of expansion of two to four additional clubs over the first decade of existence.)

What percentage of the fans would come from Greenville or Pitt County?

(RESPONSE: Approximately 30%, and that is based on surveys that have been conducted randomly throughout the area, via mail.)

In reviewing the schedule for last year, Guy Smith Stadium was used all of April, May, June and half of July, half of September, half of October and five of the days in August. Are you saying you can work around that, that you would not have to ask any of those things to move?

(RESPONSE: On May 1, there are games up until 6:30 p.m. The League would have a night game that would begin at 7:30. On May 2, there is a practice session that takes place on the schedule. The League schedule runs from May 1 to September 9. For example, there is a time period from July 1st through August 17th that you could probably get the majority of your games in. Through the end of August, pretty much the entire month of August, is open. From July 16th to the 31st there is not one event going on at the ballpark and the same said for the first two weeks of August. There is certainly some room there to work around. The reason 35 night games were requested was to have some day games. We would have to have some day games at some neutral facilities, maybe East Carolina University or Pitt Community College. The League is definitely willing to bend over backwards and figure out a way to make the schedule work. The main question today is if the Parks and Recreation Commission is willing to sit down and work this out and make it a win-win for everybody.)

The package Council received earlier allowed the South Coast League to have first priority use of Guy Smith Stadium between May 1st and September 30th. Who is going to have priority here?

(RESPONSE: I want to reference that was the initial letter sent. The binder would serve more as a target for exactly what we have experienced. The package tonight would be what we would hope your recommendations and judgment would be based on the proposal here tonight.)

You are anticipating a 1,551 average attendance. Guy Smith Stadium seats a little over 1,200. There are only 165 paved parking spaces. How would those issues be dealt with?

(RESPONSE: The parking is going to be one that will require some work. Average attendance means actual ticket sales, and 1,551 is the number of actual tickets sold. We initially proposed that we were going to have some sort of concrete picnic area added to the facility that would be worked out with the Parks and Recreation Department for local businesses. That would be a general admission area that would seat probably 250 to 500 people based on the space allocation at the facility. The two questions that I don't have an answer for are the parking and the location of a possible clubhouse or any improvements to the stadium, because we have not gotten far enough along in that research.)

One thing I am concerned about is the parking. I don't see a way of solving it without on-street parking and that is an unacceptable impact on the neighborhood, having fans parking in front of people's houses. Unfortunately, I think that is the only way you are going to find parking spaces and that is an unacceptable burden on that neighborhood.

(RESPONSE: Where are the current fans parking? I understand it draws pretty well.)

When the parking spaces run out, the parking goes into the neighborhoods. Where are you going to come up with all this space and why Guy Smith Stadium? There is only a one-way street that separates Guy Smith from a very dense neighborhood of people, and you are talking about only 155 parking spaces. Where else are they going to go, because they are building a center across the street and there is really not any parking available? I do not see where all this land is coming from for the picnic area. I have not gotten anything in consideration of the people who actually live in that community. You will have to bulldoze down that neighborhood in order to come up with 1,500 parking spaces. Who is responsible for cleaning up after the ballgame?

(RESPONSE: That would be the team/league.)

Are you going to go into the neighborhood and clean up?

(RESPONSE: The parking issue has not come up, other than today. Our hope for this meeting was for an ongoing dialog, which was based more towards the facility and presentation of our league. We see this as the infant stages of continual conversation.)

I can tell you that place is residentially locked, because I don't see where anything else can go, especially a minor league or even a bigger league, because parking is a problem. I just don't see where that can happen, and I can tell you for sure that I have already polled the community and they are definitely against it. The City is going through a revitalization process, and I don't see why we are going to revitalize a community and turn around and trash it.

(RESPONSE: I would not say "trash it" with minor league baseball, because every progressive community in North Carolina, large cities or growing cities, has a current professional baseball team.)

You will make 100% of that, 100% of all your ticket sales and 95% of the concession sales. I can't figure out how it is going to benefit Greenville.

(RESPONSE: I think the information that you are getting came from the letter that was sent out, but the booklet says the City gets \$1 from each ticket sale and 10% of the concessions.)

I want you to understand that I am not against having a team come here, but what I am against is that particular area, because it is just not going to work. We need to look at land that the City received during the flood.

(RESPONSE: There is no doubt we would have to solve the parking problem.)

You communicated that you wanted 16 teams and according to the information that you sent, you have made 8 contacts, 5 have confirmed, you have 19 other potential sites, only one in North Carolina and you want this commitment by March. How many teams do you have to have and how many commitments do you have to have by March to get this league off the ground?

(RESPONSE: It would not be a March time period. The March date is based more on a league preference of establishing the team in the community. Actually the buffer would be one year out. We would like to have all of our commitments by May 1, because that would give the League a calendar year to get in, promote the community, sell tickets, and create the logo identity.)

What kind of partnership will you have with people in the community to get jobs? Greenville has a high underemployment rate and we need job opportunities. It sounds like you are bringing all your people with you.

(RESPONSE: Probably the only position that would be searched more throughout our regional industry would be the General Manager. Also, on top of that there would probably be five or six other full time positions along with 50 to 75 seasonal positions (ushers, ticket takers, etc.). South Coast is projecting an annual wages and salaries impact of about \$140,000, which includes part time, full time and commission on advertising sales. If the City wants to build a new facility, we would certainly enjoy the opportunity to play there. The League felt it would be inappropriate without having proved ourselves to approach Council about a new facility.)

The City is currently dealing with a big problem in the neighborhoods around the University. Even though baseball is a family game, there are alcoholic beverages that are going to be sold there which are not sold there now, and that is another concern. Even though alcoholic beverages are sold in cups, it is being sold and it is going to end up on the ground in the community.

The proposal has changed over the last two to three weeks in terms of what the League is looking for and what they are willing to give. Since Council Member Little is on the Recreation and Parks Commission, we have talked and there is another group in town working to put something together and that dialog needs to be continued. Council can be a part of a committee to work on that.

Council Member Glover expressed interest in serving on any committee that is going to work on this.

Council Member Little informed the Council that he attended the Parks and Recreation meeting today and heard the same presentation. He has discussed some of his concerns with Council Member Craft. Council Member Little stated that he had copies of letters from different organizations that he would pass out concerning the proposal. He further stated that what he had heard throughout the community is that everybody would like to see some sort of professional minor league baseball in Greenville. Unfortunately, Guy Smith Park is not the right location for this to take place. He hopes that there will be opportunities if the League expands and that the City could be invited back in or that there might be another opportunity down the road. Greenville does not have a plan. A committee needs to be assembled to study what happens if a League comes to Greenville or if the City wants to look at obtaining a league. Presently some of the practice schedules could be worked with, but there needs to be a place to practice. All Greenville has is a prep field and the Rose High School ballfields. Those are the only two regulation baseball fields in Greenville to practice on, and Greenville has a tremendous amount of teams. Council Member Little reiterated that he liked the idea of minor league baseball and was not trying to close the door on it, but felt that the City needed to study the options and how it would be proposed.

Council Member Glover stated that she agreed with Council Member Little.

Council Member Spell requested a perspective from the Recreation and Parks Department about the facilities.

Council Member Dunn stated that this would be a significant commitment on the part of the City. The City is dealing with a league that does not have a history and is trying to get started.

She felt it was really early and premature for the City to come up with a decision by March or April. There are conflicts with Guy Smith Stadium that would be hard to resolve.

Mayor Parrott stated that he thought Mr. Craft had a good idea to let the staff along with the City Manager come up with a committee.

Council Member Dunn stated that she thought the Parks and Recreation Commission needed to be involved in the process.

PRESENTATIONS BY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Youth Council

Mayor Pro-Tem Council stated that she was very excited that the City now has an official youth council. Four representatives of the group recently attended the National League of Cities Conference in Charlotte--Waseem Ahmed (11th grader at D.H. Conley High School and President of the Youth Council), Samnita Stanley (from North Pitt High School and Vice President of the Youth Council), Austin Lamb (10th grader at J.H. Rose High School), and Jonathan Fields (11th grader at Farmville Central High School).

Ms. Waseem Ahmed stated that she was the Chairperson of the City's Youth Council. She informed the Council that the four members attended the National League of Cities Congress of Cities Exposition in Charlotte in December 2005. At the conference, the group learned a lot about the government and the current issues that involved cities and towns around the nation. It was a great chance to meet city officials and youth from different councils all over the nation. Each day the group attended general sessions, the exposition and workshops that gave them ideas on how they could improve Greenville. During the general sessions, there were many City officials and well-known figures in the media, such as the Mayor of Washington DC. It was an amazing experience, because these are the people they read about and watch on television. One of the more entertaining parts of the conference was the exposition where the group visited booths from various cities and companies. More than just visiting the exhibits and learning about the products, it was also a great way to socialize with everyone who attended the conference, from youth members to all the City officials. Besides the exposition and the general sessions, Ms. Ahmed stated that she personally thought the most valuable part of the conference was the youth workshops they attended. She explained that when the group attended the youth workshops they got to know a lot of different members of Youth Councils from all over the United States and received ideas of the things they had accomplished and things that they were in the process of doing for their own cities. At one of the youth orientations, the group heard guest speaker Michael Sessions, the 18-year-old Mayor of Hillsdale, Michigan, who was really inspiring because he is the age of the youth attendees and the Mayor of a City. He gave a lot of advice about how it is important to get awareness in the Community, how it is important to be visible, and how to make the City know that youth wish to make a difference. During the workshops the group participated in activities and gained ideas on how to make the Youth Council successful and how to contribute positively to the community. Had she not attended the conference, she would not have had a clue as to where to get started and to get things rolling with the Youth Council. The conference gave the group the confidence needed to get started and it can use the knowledge gained as a foundation to base their own ideas and to get started on

setting goals that the group plans to accomplish. Ms. Ahmed further stated that on behalf of the Greenville Youth Council, she would like to thank the Council for giving them the opportunity to attend the conference in Charlotte and felt that it was a very worthwhile experience and one that she would never forget. Ms. Ahmed concluded by stating that they hoped to make the Youth Council a successful contribution to the City of Greenville and a true voice for the youth in the community.

Mayor Pro-Tem Council thanked the City Council for helping to make one of her visions a reality.

Community Appearance Commission

Ms. Diane Kulik stated that Greenville's Community Appearance Commission was created to promote, encourage, suggest and solicit improvements on public and private property. Ms. Kulik reminded the Council that appearance is important to the way the City is perceived. It greatly influences new retail and commercial economic growth. Industrial recruitment is becoming more competitive every day, and Greenville is competing with cities all over North Carolina as well as cities all over the United States and all over the world. Any company that comes to look at Greenville is going to look at other cities also. The image that a community projects could be the deciding factor in a new company coming to Greenville. This translates into tax dollars and new jobs. The Community Appearance Commission is committed to making Greenville look the very best it can for its nearly 68,000 citizens, guests and businesses that come to look at Greenville.

Ms. Kulik reported that one of the Commission's biggest projects is the City-wide Spring Cleanup, and this year the Spring Clean-Up will be held March 25-April 1. Also, eight new sections of streets have been adopted through the Adopt-a-Street program. Another project is the Neighborhood Grant Program, which allows neighborhoods wishing to make a visible public beautification planting or entrance sign to apply for grants through the program. This year, eight new grants were approved. Two grants have gone to Eppes Park Neighborhood and one to each of the following neighborhoods: Glen Arthur, Tar River University, Oak Grove Estates, Stratford, Country Estates, and Willoughby Park. The Commission would like to start another program entitled "Keep America Beautiful". A resolution has been passed to support this project by asking the City to apply for affiliation of the "Keep America Beautiful Program". Ms. Kulik further stated that the Commission has had several presentations about tree preservation and hopes the Council will help to protect the trees in Greenville, as the Commission strongly supports tree preservation. The Commission has given out three monthly awards through the Awards Program of Excellence for Landscape and Community Appearance. Every two years the Commission presents ten Biennial Awards for the very best of the two years. This will happen in the fall of 2006. Ms. Kulik thanked the Mayor and City Council who have a vision for growth and excellence for Greenville.

Council Member Spell stated that the City is looking at streetscapes in the uptown area as well as Martin Luther King Drive and encouraged the Community Appearance Commission to be a part of that. He further stated that he hoped that as the Biennial Awards come around in 2006 the City can do something more higher profile.

Mayor Pro-Tem Council stated that she had always been involved in the City Clean Ups and her youth groups were also engaged. She asked if the Neighborhood Grant awards were still \$500 and if there were any plans to increase the awards.

Ms. Kulik replied that one neighborhood applied in the beginning of 2005 and their project was bigger than the \$500 so they reapplied later and got a second grant.

Environmental Advisory Commission

Dr. Ulrich Alsentzer stated that based on the previous discussions concerning tree preservation, the Environmental Advisory Commission has continued its efforts and was particularly successful this year in modifying the existing tree ordinance for additional protection of trees in public rights-of-way. The Commission has made modifications to the existing vegetation ordinance to provide credits for preserving large trees, and the members of Environmental Advisory Commission gave various presentations to a number of community groups about the health and economic benefits that trees represent. An Environmental Awareness Award was established last year and recognized individuals, organizations, institutions and businesses for their efforts to improve the environment. The Commission also initiated an amendment to the Greenway Master Plan to raise the priority level of the Fork Swamp Greenway to coincide with a gift that the City had received. The Environmental Advisory Commission also adopted a resolution supporting the City's application for "Keeping America Beautiful" and encouraged the Council to consider that favorable when it is discussed on January 12, 2006.

Together with the Public Works Department, the Environmental Advisory Commission has worked on the Stream Bank Stabilization Program and that project has been completed. The Environmental Advisory Commission conducted a visit to the Recycling Facility at East Carolina Vocational Center and learned that it is a nonprofit organization that works without public subsidies, and has 75 people employed currently and is looking for more recyclables. Currently the East Carolina Vocational Center catches less than 20% of the potential recyclables that are generated in Greenville and would like to see a larger percentage of that run through their facility. The Environmental Advisory Commission offered input in the 45-Block Revitalization Plan and with respect to the placement of facilities for children, the elderly, and the health concerns that would be raised and also the preservation of green spaces.

In the coming year the Commission will continue their efforts with the Environmental Awareness Award and are in the process of tweaking the criteria and maybe expanding the spectrum of awards that are being looked at. Last year two of the awards were given for outstanding efforts in recycling to East Carolina Vocational Center and Ms. Jackie Ponder with the Unnatural Resource Institute. The Commission has also been working with City staff on the possibility of increasing the percentage of recyclable goods that actually go to the recycling facilities, and the Commission will probably come up with some ideas in a proposal in the next few weeks. Dr. Alsentzer informed the Council that the Commission would also continue their efforts for tree preservation in the following areas: continue to give community preservation presentations regarding the importance that trees have on public health, work together with City staff to sponsor a public forum particularly directed toward the community of builders and construction industry, work with City Council in pursuing and enabling legislation to prevent clear cutting of trees on private properties, and continue efforts in regards to air quality issues.

In April and May the Commission will take time to consider what interesting topics to tackle next year.

Council Member Spell asked how the proceedings were going with the efforts to expand recycling at multi-family units, and Dr. Alsentzer replied that the City received a grant that enabled the Commission to offer recycling at 40 multi-family facilities.

Council Member Spell asked if Mr. Alsentzer was talking about the igloo style recycling containers, because one of the problems that he experienced while living in an apartment complex were residents throwing trash in with the recyclables, and Dr. Alsentzer replied that the containers were smaller, 60-65 gallon blue containers, with signage that shows what they are for, what can be recycled and why recycling is good for the community. The containers are separated out in areas adjacent to where the regular refuse goes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Council asked if there were any studies going on concerning the problem other than air pollution, and if the environment is healthier with trees even though some people are allergic. The response from Dr. Alsentzer was that a lot of the substances in the air can be filtered out by shrubs and trees and that is not withstanding the fact that some people have become allergic to tree products, pollen, grasses and things like that. Often times these allergies are aggravated or triggered initially at an early childhood age by just common air pollution and then specific allergies are developed. Dr. James Kenny confirmed that what Dr. Alsentzer stated was very true and stated that when an allergy is placed with pollen, the ozone, cars, or fine particulates, that is what is causing premature death in senior citizens. Dr. Kenny stated that 30% of sixth graders in North Carolina have asthma.

Council Member Glover thanked the Environmental Advisory Commission on their effort in getting the Tar River area behind the Fairfax Avenue cleaned up where people were using it as a dump.

PRESENTATION AND REQUEST BY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION AND PUBLIC WORKS STAFF REGARDING TREE PRESERVATION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY - APPROVED

Mr. Ken Jackson, Operations Manager with the Public Works Department, stated that the Environmental Advisory Commission and the staff of the Public Works Department would like to present information in regards to the benefits of trees, tree preservation within the City of Greenville and also guidelines for potential tree preservation going before the legislature to gain approval to legislate tree preservation.

Dr. Alsentzer stated that when talking about what trees can do for a community, one has to understand what the health mechanisms are that trees offer. Trees benefit people because they clean the air and the water. When trees decrease the storm water runoff, it decreases the runoff that carries with it a lot of contaminants into the rivers and creeks. These contaminants create algae blooms and if the algae blooms are big enough then there will be a fish kill. If it is not enough to kill the fish then the fish will still become contaminated and unsafe to eat. In general, a polluted river is unsightly and often times has a bad odor to it and is unhealthy for humans. If there are enough trees around that filter a lot of these pollutants and sediments before they reach

the creeks and rivers they save the community a lot of money that the City would otherwise have to spend on cleaning up garbage and cleaning up the river with technical means. Likewise, what trees do for the water, they do for the air. Everyone knows that smoke is unhealthy and smoke is in essence a lot of high level, high concentration of ground level ozone and lots of other particulates dissolved in the air. Thirty percent of all North Carolina sixth graders have asthma and that is why it is so high. Children are exposed to 15 times the average load of airborne particles because of their contact with school busses and school busses put out a lot of pollutants. In North Carolina, children with asthma miss 3.7 more school days every year than children without asthma. It is the single highest costly disease in the healthcare industry and has doubled in cost from 1990 to 2002 to over \$12 billion. Asthma is the number 1 disabling condition in the United States. PN2.5 small particles that are smaller than 2.5 microns, are so small that shutting doors and closing windows does not do much. The indoor concentration of these particles is about 80% of what it is outside. These particles also reach the five portions of human lungs causing inflammation and respiratory problems and they also transfer to the blood stream and then have a prediction to go to the pulmonary vessels where they again cause inflammation, angina, and premature death. The trees filter out the microns and smaller particles in the air and they also filter out a lot of the pollutants, the solvent substances and the ozone and make the ozone into regular oxygen, reducing the allergy load on children. Trees have a twofold health effect, especially for old and young people. Annually the average adult tree absorbs about 26,000 miles of vehicle-produced carbon. This decreases incidents of asthma in children and lets older people live longer, thus saving health care dollars. Mecklenburg County calculated in 2001, that based on the then 53% coverage of area with trees, they saved in investments \$1.8 billion that they would otherwise had to put into storm water runoff if they did not have that area covered with trees. Mecklenburg County saved \$43.8 million in terms of air pollution removal equipment.

During the summer everyone looks at the parking lot of the mall where there is a tree providing shade. When we are in the car we want to keep it cooler. The same thing applies to a residence. If the residence is nicely shaded, that effect can be a reduction in the air conditioning bill of between 15% and 35%. In the winter, trees prevent the wind from carrying away the heat from the house, which can save another 10%-20%. Also, well-landscaped lots can be worth 20% more than the same lot with the same building that does not have trees that shades a house. It has always been argued that the absence of trees is an aesthetic problem and a problem of habitat loss. The absence of trees is a problem of our health, the health of our children and our older citizens, and it is a matter of our economics. Trees reduce energy cost, clean air and water and improve human health. Over a 50-year life span of an adult tree, that tree creates about \$30,000 worth of oxygen, \$35,000 worth of clean water, and \$60,000 worth of air-pollution removal. It is time for the citizens of Greenville to determine for themselves how they can best help with the help of trees to protect the young and elderly. It is hoped with the help from City Council, Greenville will get some sort of enabling legislation.

Mr. Jackson stated that the current tree ordinance protects trees on City-owned property as well as the right of way of the city, and the City has strengthened with greater penalties for those that damage or cut down a tree in the right of way without getting the proper permit. The only time presently within the City's tree ordinance that the city can enter private property is if a tree is either dead or diseased and would affect the City's right of way, safety or public land safety. The City's current bufferyard and vegetation ordinance requires the planting of trees within buffer

yards, the planting of trees internal to new commercial development, and recently amended creating incentives to help protect some of the large trees on private property.

The Environmental Advisory Commission has sponsored past and future tree forums and recent amendments to the current tree, bufferyard and vegetation ordinances; sponsored working groups of citizens, developers, environmental groups, and the Community Appearance Commission; worked with City staff to develop a framework for enabling legislation; and adopted a resolution requesting City Council to pursue enabling legislation. Benefits of tree preservation on private property includes improving citizen's health, increasing property values, reducing air pollution, reducing energy costs, reducing storm water run-off and improving the community of aesthetics. The objectives of tree preservation on private property are to limit clear cutting within the buffers, require development plan approval prior to clearing site, and protect significant trees within buffers. The proposal for tree preservation on private property that has been developed includes trees within 25 feet of undeveloped property and 50 feet of developed property may not be cut until a development plan is approved. This applies only to trees six inches in diameter or larger and with development plan approval. Preservation of trees is still at the owner's discretion. Properties clear cut for forestry purposes cannot be developed for three years, properties clear cut without plan approval cannot be developed for three years, property two acres or less are exempted, and this framework is very similar to framework or legislative initiatives that have been approved in other cities in North Carolina. In order to move forward, Council will need to sponsor a legislative initiative and the legislature would have to approve the request. A tree ordinance amendment would have to be developed and that would be done with input from all interested citizens and then the tree ordinance amendment would have to come back before Council for consideration.

Questions asked and responses given were as follows:

Are there programs in the City like the one in the County where Weyerhaeuser and groups like that bring back trees?

(RESPONSE: The program being described is with Weyerhaeuser and reforestry projects. In the past at some of the City Clean Ups, tree seedlings were given out by the City in order to help individuals reforest properties. Also, RELEAF is actively involved in replanting trees on properties and along streets and has done a wonderful job along Arlington and other roads downtown. RELEAF does not go along with seedlings, but goes with trees 6 to 15 feet tall.)

I like what has been presented and have been following this for a while. Would this type of ordinance prevent a homeowner from cutting down a tree in their yard?

(RESPONSE: Properties under two acres in size are not affected by the ordinance and there are very few homes that have more than two acres of property. If an individual homeowner needs to have a tree cut down, that is still in their purview. The tree preservation that is being described would only be toward commercial properties and not be toward single family or duplexes.)

Would a buffer be required between a new neighborhood and the surrounding property?

(RESPONSE: It is focused on commercial development.)

Could we have a copy of the presentation and when the new legislation will be considered?

(RESPONSE: The General Assembly reconvenes in May of this year and staff will present for Council's consideration legislative initiatives. It will be either March or April when it will be brought to Council.)

Have other cities done this? Can Council get copies of their legislation that was enacted to see what other cities have done. Would the proposal being made have to be a specific ordinance that would be approved or is the request of the legislature to allow the city to make its own ordinance?

(RESPONSE: There are two steps; place it on the list of legislative initiatives that you want to take forward and develop the ordinance from what is within the legislative authority. When Council receives copies of the legislation from other cities it will be something similar to Greenville's presentation.)

Let's collect the information from other cities and take a look at it and then check with council and see if there is consensus to make that part of our legislative agenda for 2006 or 2007.

I would like to request that Council consider the information in April. Is an official motion required?

(RESPONSE: The process is that staff will bring before Council a menu of things for Council to consider as far as legislative initiatives and receive direction from Council as to which ones Council may want to endorse for the coming year. Then Council will be asked to adopt resolutions making a request to our members of the local legislative delegation to sponsor that legislation.)

Can Council attach to a specific law that is already in place?

(RESPONSE: Yes.)

Motion was made by Council Member Dunn and seconded by Council Member Spell to consider the Environmental Advisory Commission's request to sponsor a legislative initiative to obtain enabling legislation for tree preservation on private property. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF JANUARY 12, 2006 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

The Council did a cursory review of the items on the January 12, 2006 City Council Meeting agenda and reviewed the appointments to Boards and Commissions.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Glover wished everyone a successful new year. She thanked the West Greenville Focus Group, SCLC, NAACP, CAR and the staff for the work they have done with the Redevelopment Commission. She also thanked the City Manager, who has worked hard for this community. His management style is pleasing.

Council Member Dunn acknowledged Larry Daniels in the Public Works Department, whose picture was on the front page of the newspaper saying that his New Year's Resolution is to be a Number One employee. She congratulated the J. H. Rose High School Football Team for winning the championship. She announced the December winners of the Community

Appearance Commission Awards--The Salon and McDonalds on Arlington Boulevard and Brookridge neighborhood on York Road. She wished everyone a happy new year.

Council Member Craft congratulated Boyd Lee for his son having been named Director of Parks and Recreation in Wilson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Council provided the Council with information she received at the National League of Cities Conference in Charlotte in December. She also stated that she would like for the Council to adopt a resolution regarding an all-inclusive community.

Council Member Spell stated that he went to see Congressman Butterfield last week when he was in town and was very impressed with him. He thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Council and Council Member Glover for going to the National League of Cities conference in Charlotte and stated that he will be attending the one in Washington, DC in March. He also went to the streetscape planning session for Greenville. He then requested a report on the actions of the Task Force on the Preservation of Neighborhoods and Housing, as far as what has happened with their recommendations and the ones left to be addressed.

City Manager Bowers stated that he will be giving an update at the planning session.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Goals and Performance Objectives for 2006

City Manager Bowers stated that his employment agreement says the Council and Manager will agree on the goals and performance objectives each year. He presented a draft of 2006 goals and performance objectives for City Council consideration and stated that he would like to endorse them as his plan of work. The first eight are carryovers from 2005. There are a few special ones this year—11 and 12. The only other one to highlight is No. 17—Riverhills. This is a new objective. He wants to make sure it is in line with what Council wants. The goals and performance objectives are as follows:

1. Facilitate the annual City Council Planning Session.
2. Monitor the redevelopment efforts for the 45-block revitalization program and provide regular status updates to the City Council
3. Improve the overall effectiveness of City Code enforcement activities
4. Participate in negotiations with East Carolina University on the downtown hotel/alumni center project.
5. Coordinate with community arts supporters and Uptown Greenville the feasibility of a live theater venue in the downtown area.
6. Continue to facilitate the work of the joint Greenville/Winterville/GUC Committee.
7. Develop a better citizen complaint/request for service tracking system.
8. Monitor the Airport Economic Stimulus Plan Agreement with the Airport Authority.
9. Coordinate with The Ferguson Group the development and implementation of a joint federal agenda with Pitt County.
10. Present to the City Council a balanced FY 2006-2007 and FY 2007-2008 two-year budget proposal with no property tax increase.

11. Complete the Assistant City Manager hiring process by March 1, 2006.
12. Complete the Police Chief hiring process by March 15, 2006.
13. Work with the Police Department to develop a strategy for expanding community-policing efforts.
14. Resolve future operational status of the Aquatics and Fitness Center by July 1, 2006.
15. Complete move to new City Hall by May 1, 2006 and insure that project is constructed within budget.
16. Complete cable television franchise renewal process by October 1, 2006.
17. Initiate the annexation process for the River Hills Subdivision located on Highway 33.
18. Monitor progress on the design of the South Tar River Greenway Project with plans to be completed by April 30, 2006.
19. Make recommendations to the City Council on future fire rescue station locations.

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Council to approve the City Manager Goals and Performance Objectives for 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

Establish time and place for City Council Planning Session on January 28, 2006

After brief discussion about possible locations for the City Council Planning Session, motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Council to have the planning session on January 28, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Carver Library. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of January 23, 2006 City Council Meeting

After being informed by the City Manager that there was no business that had to be conducted on January 23, 2006, motion was made by Council Member Dunn and seconded by Council Member Craft to cancel the January 23, 2006 City Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Council Member Craft to go into closed session (1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes, said law rendering the information as privileged or confidential being the Open Meetings Law (2) to establish or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Council Member Little to return to Open Session. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Council Member Craft to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda T. Elks, MMC
City Clerk